

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 4 with:

- Figure 5 is an enlarged detail of 5 (V) indicated in Figure 2.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 9 with:

The offshore station has column 2, which rests on the sea bottom, and whose head 3 is capable of turning about the axis of the column. This head carries boom 4, and ~~at its free end hang~~ a liquefied natural gas transfer hose and another gas return hose, the hang at the free end of the boom 4. The other ends of the hoses ~~which~~ can be connected to the manifold of the transport ship. Seen as 6 in Figure 1 is a ring for mooring the ship by means of cable 10 which is connected with rotary head 3. Figure 1 shows as 11 a circular guard surrounding the column. Inside of column 2, mounted at the site of rotary head 3, is a swivel joint system according to the invention, designated by reference A. This joint system is mounted in pipe fitting 8 for the transfer of liquefied natural gas and in conduit 9 for the return of the gas.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 26 with:

Central conduit 12 has lower conduit section 12a, which is fixedly mounted inside of the column and upper section 12b, which is mounted to rotate with respect to fixed lower section ~~12a12b~~. Provided between the two end surfaces 20 and 21, respectively facing each other, of fixed section 12a and rotary section 12b, is an appropriate seal 23 which allows extensive relative annular movement of the two sections 12a and 12b. Provided around central conduit 12, coaxially to this conduit, is annular space 25, which is delimited radially inside by central conduit 12 and radially outside by wall 29. Wall 29 extends between two flanges 13a, 13b. Space 25, which is therefore closed at the top and bottom, constitutes the gas return conduit, which enters space 25 through lateral entrance joining piece 27 and leaves this space through lateral exit joining piece ~~3029~~.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 8 with:

Seals 23, 37 are configured so that they are able to absorb extensive radial and axial movements and can be produced in the manner represented in Figure 5. The seal represented as an example has two rings 54, 55 made of an appropriate material such as polytetrafluoroethylene, for example, each of which is received in groove 57, 58 in front

surface 21 of upper central conduit section 12b. Grooves 57, 58 are concentric. Each sealing ring 54, 55, on its side facing front surface 20 of lower central conduit section 12a, comprises projecting portion 60 whose front surface is squeezed between surface 20 under the effect of spring 63 inserted between rear surface 65 of the ring and bottom 67 of ~~groove~~grooves 57, 58 for receiving the sealing ring.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 17 with:

With reference to Figure 2, it is again observed that cylindrical entrance and exit joining pieces 27, ~~29~~30 of the gas return conduit pass through circular openings 69 formed in exterior jacket 39.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 20 with:

As an example, the structure of swivel joint A ~~joint 1~~ according to the invention is made of stainless steel of type AISI 316 L and can be arranged with a vertical or horizontal axis of rotation.